would be an overlap period during which analogue and digital system will co-exist in the market. Up-gradation of technology is a continuing process. According to industry sources, digital equipment is robust with higher standards of security.

It is difficult to estimate the requirement of Set Top Boxes in the market at this stage. The industry has indicated that it might be in the region of 1.25 to 2.5 millions in first phase, of which about 1/3rd are likely to be in digital mode.

Fire Accident in the National Film Archives of India, Pune

566. SHRIC. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent fire accident in the National Film Archives of India, Pune master nagatives of great films like Raja Harishchandra, Bhakta Prahlada etc., have been destroyed;

(b) whether the construction of a special vault for the prints has been completed;

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has informed that 607 films (5095 reels) in the custody of NFAI and stored in nitrate base were destroyed in the fire on 08.01.2003. NFAI has further reported that most of the nitrate prints destroyed in fire including the films "Raja Harishchandra" and "Bhakta Prahlada" had been copied on to the safety base and the films are safely preserved in NFAI.

(b) and (c)The civil construction portion of the specialized vault has been completed. Electrical and air-conditioning work is not yet complete.

(d) NFAI has intimated that all archival material in the custody of

NFAI is stored on safety (acetate) base in their vaults where temperature and humidity are controlled. The films kept in the vaults are subjected to periodic checking to monitor their condition and modern preservation techniques are applied to prevent deterioration in the quality of the prints.

Destruction of Original Prints of Films at FTII in Pune Due to Fire

567. DR.T.SUBBARAMIREDDY:

SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

SHRIYADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 4000 odd original nitrate prints were destroyed on 18th January, 2003 at Film andTelevision Institute of India (FTII) Pune due to devasting fire;

(b) if so, whether films produced in 1913 and the total original prints of 250 films including frigments of film of foreign origin were completely destroyed;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted about the cause and nature of the fire;

(d) if so, the findings there; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) National Film Archives of India (NFAI) has informed that 607 films (5095 reels) in the custody of NFAI and stored on nitrate base were destroyed in the fire on 8.1.2003. NFAI has further reported that most of the films destroyed in fire had been copied on to safety base and are safely preserved in NFAI. One such heritage films which was transferred to safety base was the first Indian feature films "Raja Harishchandra" by Dada Saheb Phalke.The 544 reels which could not be transferred to the safety base and which were destroyed in the fire related to war footage in foreign languages like Italian, English, German, Russian, Spanish etc.

(c) and (d) A high level inquiry has been ordered into the incident to pin-pojnt *inter-alia* the exact cause of the fire, if possible; assess the safety systems being followed and preventive measures for the future. The inquiry is yet to be completed.